REMARKS

Applicants request examination of the application as amended herein, which is a Rule 53(b) continuation of US Serial No. 09/312,617, filed January 17, 2001.

Information on related applications has been inserted on the first page after the title.

The fourth paragraph on page 7 of the specification has been amended to correct an inadvertent and obvious typographical error in the word "expected".

Original claims 17-23 have been canceled as set forth in the filing papers of the subject application. Claim 1 has been amended herein, and new claims 24-41 have been added. Accordingly, the application as amended herein contains claims 1-16 and 24-41. Support in the specification and original claims for amended claim 1 and the new claims includes:

Claim	Support
1	page 2, lines 18-19; original claim 1
24	page 2, line 21; page 5, table
25	page 2, lines 21-22
26	page 2, lines5-6
27	page 2, line 21; page 5, table
28	page 2, lines 21-22
29	original claim 8
30	original claim 9
31	original claim 10
32	page 5, table
33	original claim 11
34	original claim 12
35	original claim 13
36	original claim 14
37	page 2, line 8; page 5, lines 4-17; page 12 (Scheme 5); and pages 21-22 (Example 8)
38 - 40	see above entries for claims 24-26
41	original claims 9-15

No new matter has been introduced by any of the foregoing amendments to the specification and claims. It is noted that the recitation of the amount of efavirenz in the compressed tablet of claim 1 has been broadened.

Marked up versions of the amended paragraph in the specification and the amended claims explicitly showing the added and deleted matter appear after the Remarks.

The application is believed to be in condition for allowance and passage to issue is requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned should any minor matters need to be resolved before a Notice of Allowance can be mailed.

Respectfully submitted,

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Marked up versions of the amended paragraph in the specification and the amended claims are as follows, wherein an underline denotes added material and a set of brackets denotes deleted material:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

The fourth paragraph on page 7:

-- The formulation also is bioequivalent to a capsule with a smaller dose (200 mg), and more bioavailable than other tablet compositions. The advantages over the capsule include robust processing and sorting steps, smaller size with a larger dose, and market preference. The tablet composition also overcomes the expected loss of crystallinity of efavirenz by adding the lactose extra-granularly while maintaining the dissolution profile.--

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (amended) A compressed tablet comprising: efavirenz, filler/disintegrant, superdisintegrant, binder, surfactant, diluent/compression aid, lubricant, and solvent, wherein efavirenz is crystalline and is from about 1 to about 75% [50%] by weight of the total composition of the compressed tablet.